

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A forming unit {1} for producing sealed packages {2} from a tube {3} of sheet packaging material fed along a feed path {A} and filled with a pourable food product, said unit {1} comprising jaw means {6, 6'} acting cyclically on said tube {3} to grip and seal it at equally spaced cross sections defining opposite sealing bands {15} of said packages {2}; interacting means {23, 16} interacting with said tube {3} and fitted movably to said jaw means {12a, 12b}; and actuating means {27, 40} for operating said interacting means {23, 16}; ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said actuating means {27, 40} are mounted entirely on said jaw means {6, 6'}.

2. (Currently Amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said jaw means comprise at least two forming assemblies {6, 6'}, each defined by a pair of jaws {8a, 8b} cooperating cyclically with each other and with said tube {3}.

3. (Currently Amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said interacting means comprise traction means {23} for exerting pull on said tube {3} of packaging material to correct the travel of said tube along said feed path {A}.

4. (Currently Amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said traction means comprise two movable members {23} carried by one {8a} of said jaws

~~{8a, 8b}~~ of each said forming assembly ~~{6, 6'}~~ and interacting on opposite sides with said tube ~~{3}~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said movable members ~~{23}~~ comprise respective pins ~~{24}~~ rotating with respect to the relative said jaw ~~{8a}~~; and respective tabs ~~{26}~~ carried eccentrically by said pins ~~{24}~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 4 ~~or 5~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, for each said one ~~{8a}~~ of said jaws ~~{8a, 8b}~~, said actuating means ~~{27}~~ comprise a first control actuator ~~{28}~~, and transmission means ~~{29}~~ interposed between said first actuator ~~{28}~~ and said movable members ~~{23}~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each said first actuator ~~{28}~~ comprises a first output member ~~{31}~~ movable in a direction ~~{F}~~ crosswise to said feed path ~~{A}~~ of said tube ~~{3}~~ and to the axes ~~{D, E}~~ of said pins ~~{24}~~ of the relative said movable members ~~{23}~~; and in that said transmission means ~~{29}~~ comprise, for each said one ~~{8a}~~ of said jaws ~~{8a, 8b}~~, a lever ~~{33}~~, which has a connecting portion ~~{34}~~ hinged to said first output member ~~{31}~~ of the relative said first actuator ~~{28}~~, and defines two fastening portions ~~{35, 36}~~ to which are hinged respective arms ~~{37, 38}~~ for activating the relative said movable members ~~{23}~~ and carried eccentrically by the respective said pins ~~{24}~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A unit as claimed in ~~any one of the foregoing Claims~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said interacting means comprise box means ~~{16}~~ enclosing portions ~~{20}~~ of said tube ~~{3}~~ of predetermined shape and volume and eventually defining said packages ~~{2}~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, for each said forming assembly ~~(6, 6')~~, said box means comprise a pair of boxes ~~(16)~~ connected movably to the respective said jaws ~~(8a, 8b)~~ and cooperating with each other to define a cavity of predetermined shape and volume and enclosing said tube ~~(3)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, for each said forming assembly ~~(6, 6')~~, said actuating means comprise push means ~~(40)~~ activated selectively to grip together the relative said boxes ~~(16)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said push means ~~(40)~~ comprise, for each said jaw ~~(8a, 8b)~~, a second control actuator ~~(41)~~ having a second output member ~~(44)~~ movable in a direction ~~(G)~~ crosswise to said feed path ~~(A)~~ of said tube ~~(3)~~; and a toggle mechanism ~~(42)~~, which extends crosswise to the travel direction ~~(G)~~ of said second output member ~~(44)~~, is interposed between the relative said jaw ~~(8a, 8b)~~ and the relative said box ~~(16)~~, and is activated by the second output member ~~(44)~~.